

great drive of the year it was apparent that in launching it, the German high command had two immediate objects in view:

1. The straightening out of the line linking the Picardy and Champagne fronts.
2. The capture of Compiègne, the northeastern rail gate of Paris.

From a large strategic standpoint, attempting for the German military school, whose fundamental doctrine that of encirclement.

Plunging due south from the N. O. Montdidier line with the same speed that marked the three earlier drives the Germans would have eaten the bulk of the French army, believed to be collected in the F. F. Salonne-Noyon triangle, from the